

## Notes and Quotes

Above all, I need a spiritual friend or group of friends of the soul who are able to see right through me and love me as I am ... If I am to engage in this fantastic battle for my life-in-God, I need the compassion of my companions. I need someone who penetrates my senseless ceaseless chatter and sees the terrific thing there really is in me. This is a good definition of the ancient role of friend of the soul. He or she is one who enters with me and, if necessary, fights against the me who is sometimes tempted by cynicism or despair... This friend of my soul is bearer of good news. He or she, by simply staying by my side through difficult times, proclaims that I am more than my cynicism and despair. There is in me, after all, a terrific thing. – Alan Jones

The soul speaks its truth only under quiet, inviting and trustworthy conditions.

Parker Palmer

A central task of community is to create a place that is safe enough for the walls to be torn down, safe enough for each of us to own and reveal our brokenness... Only then can community be used of God to restore our souls... **Without a safe community we will not own our brokenness.** The determination to trust no one and deep belief that no one really has your best interest at heart – is undermined and destroyed only in an environment of trust, safety, feeling loved - Larry Crabb

**Heb. 10:24-25** - <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. <sup>25</sup> Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Discipling is fundamentally a community function—relating to each other in ways to pursue the question: How can I take the little flame in you and fan it into a bonfire?

Larry Crabb

A person can only be a person through others - African saying

(A Healthy Relationship occurs when) one pours into the other and nothing is lost in the one who is giving and the one who receives becomes what they could not be apart from another pouring into them. The two become one but the fruit of their oneness is more life without their lives being reduced - L. Crabb

## Imago Dei Christian Community

**Mission -** The proclamation, demonstration, and celebration of God and His kingdom.

We commit ourselves to the following values:

### **Spirituality (abbreviated)**

- We value intimacy with and passion for our God. We seek to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to see His life permeate every aspect of our lives. (Jn 15:1-8,16))
- We value the pursuit of becoming like Christ in our purpose, character, and actions. (2 Cor 3:8; Eph. 4:24; 2 Pet. 1:4)
- We are committed to experiencing and ministering in the fullness of Christ, including all the spiritual gifts God gives our church. (Rom 12; 1 Cor. 12-14; Eph 4)
- We are committed to the priority of worship as God's Kingdom people.

### **Community**

- We are committed to forming a community of small groups. We believe that it is in the safe, authentic, and interdependent environment of a small group that people grow deep soulfully and relationally (Acts 2:42ff. and 4:32ff). It will be in the contexts of small groups that wounds are healed, sin is addressed, and wholeness in Christ is restored.
- We value becoming an *authentic community*, where genuine and life-giving relationships will create transformational communities. We are committed to loving one another through being real, truthful, and compassionate. Our oneness in Christ will contribute not only to our depth and health as Christians, but will also serve to generate a greater impact in the world (Jn 17:23; Heb. 10:24-25; 2 Tim. 3:10-11)
- We recognize that all persons are made in the image of God and are to reflect that image in the community of believers. Therefore, we seek to be an *incarnational community* who embodies Christ to our world in concrete and practical measures. We will seek intentional means, as a community, to express Christ's compassion, unconditional love and radical truth to a hurting and lost society. (Jn. 13:35; 15:8)
- We aim to be a *prophetic community* in which we live out Christ's life communally *in* the world, while *not being of it* (Jn 17:14-18). And that by being salt and light (Mt. 5:13-14) we will proclaim, demonstrate, and offer a radically different and "alternative" life which will draw men and women into the kingdom God.
- We value the equality, freedom, and responsibility of all persons. We take seriously the notion of the "priesthood of all believers" (1 Pet. 2:5; Rev. 5:10) and therefore, believe all people have a voice and take a shared responsibility in building community, reaching the lost, and redeeming the culture (Eph 4:15-16; Matt 28:16-20).
- We also believe that Christian Leadership is an issue of function, not status. Thus, we value Leader - Led interdependence and a 'flattened out' hierarchy of leadership and government.

### **Mission**